



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/014,301

12/10/2001

Cong Q. Khieu

004-6390

3139

42714

7590

03/21/2006

ZAGORIN O'BRIEN GRAHAM LLP (004)
7600B NORTH CAPITAL OF TEXAS HIGHWAY
SUITE 350
AUSTIN, TX 78731-1191

EXAMINER

ANGELO, CAROLINE J

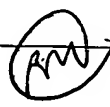
ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2611

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/014,301	Applicant(s) KHIEU ET AL.	
	Examiner Caroline Angelo	Art Unit 2637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed February 21, 2006 have been considered but are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection necessitated by the applicant's amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 12, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dow (US 5,306,967) in view of Easton et al. (US 2001/0046205 A1).

4. Regarding claim 22, Dow discloses an apparatus of minimizing coupling capacitance between a first signal path and second signal path in an electrical system comprised of:

means for transmitting a first digital signal along the first signal path (figure 1, element 42 and column 4, lines 10-17);

means for transmitting a second digital signal along the second signal path (figure 1, element 41 and column 4, lines 10-17) wherein the second digital signal has a value, "0," opposite a value of the first digital signal, "1," (figure 1, elements 42 and 41 towards the left side of the figure);

means for inverting the value of the first digital signal along the first signal path to match the value of the second digital signal (figure 1, element 52 to the left and column 4, lines 26-31); and

- means for re-inverting the first digital signal along the first signal path at a final destination of the first signal path (figure 1, element 52 to the right).
5. However, Dow is silent about storing the second signal in a buffer.
 6. In the same field of endeavor, however, Easton discloses an apparatus of minimizing interference comprising means for storing the second digital signal in a buffer along the second signal path (page 16, left column, lines 38-39, a second signal is stored in a buffer).
 7. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize a buffer as taught by Easton in the apparatus of Dow because Easton reduces the severity of multipath fading.
 8. As to claim 1, the steps claimed as method are nothing more than restating the function of the specific components of the apparatus as claimed above and therefore it would have been anticipated, considering the aforementioned rejection for the apparatus claim 22.
 9. As to claim 12, the device claimed is nothing more than restating the specific components of the apparatus as claimed above and therefore it would have been anticipated, considering the aforementioned rejection for the apparatus claim 22.
 10. Claims 2, 13, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dow in view of Easton and further in view of Lakkis (US 2005/0094709 A1).
 11. Regarding claim 23, Dow is silent about time delaying at least one of the first and second digital signals.
 12. In the same field of endeavor, however, Lakkis discloses an apparatus comprising means for time delaying at least one of the first and second digital signals (paragraph 237 and figure 44, elements 4410 and 4412, both signal paths contain time delay units).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize a delay circuit as taught by Lakkis in the system of Dow because Lakkis minimizes the size of the communication network.

13. As to claim 2, claim 2 is a method claim corresponding to apparatus claim 23 and recites substantially the same limitations, and therefore is similarly analyzed as apparatus claim 23 above.

14. As to claim 13, claim 13 recites substantially the same limitations as claim 23 and therefore is similarly analyzed as claim 23 above.

15. Claims 3-6, 8-11, 14-17, 19-21, 24-27, and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dow in view of Easton and further in view of Lin et al. (US 6414542).

16. Regarding claim 24, Dow discloses an apparatus that meets all limitations of claim 24 except means for inverting the first signal during the storing of the second signal.

17. In the same field of endeavor, however, Lin discloses an apparatus of minimizing interference wherein the means for inverting the first digital signal take place when storing the second digital signal (figure 1, elements B12 and B22, figure 3, element S12 and column 3, lines 40-52).

18. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to invert the first signal while storing the second as taught by Lin in the apparatus of Dow because Lin reduces the compensation of propagation delay.

19. Regarding claim 25, Dow discloses an apparatus that meets all limitations of claim 25 but Dow is silent about including means for repeating the first and second signals.

Art Unit: 2637

20. In the same field of endeavor, however, Lin discloses an apparatus of minimizing interference comprising means for repeating the first digital signal (figure 1, elements B11-B14 and column 6, lines 20-27) and means for repeating the second digital signal (figure 1, elements B21-B24 and column 6, lines 20-27).

21. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize means for repeating the signals as taught by Lin in the apparatus of Dow because Lin improves the performance and quality of signals received.

22. Regarding claim 26, Dow discloses an apparatus that meets all limitations of claim 26 except repeating the first signal after inversion and repeating the second signal after storing.

23. In the same field of endeavor, however, Lin discloses an apparatus of minimizing interference comprising means for repeating the first digital signal after inverting the first digital signal (figure 1, elements B13-B14 and column 6, lines 20-27), and means for repeating the second digital signal after storing the second digital signal (figure 1, elements B23-B24 and column 6, lines 20-27).

24. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to repeat the first signal after inversion and repeat the second signal after storing as taught by Lin in the apparatus of Dow because Lin improves the performance of the apparatus.

25. Regarding claim 27, Dow discloses an apparatus that meets all limitations of claim 27, but Dow does not explicitly state that the two signals have the same value for at least one half of the first signal path.

Art Unit: 2637

26. In the same field of endeavor, however, Lin discloses an apparatus of minimizing interference wherein the value of the first digital signal and the value of the second digital signal are the same for at least one half of the first signal path (column 4, lines 11-21).

27. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for the two signals have the same value for at least one half of the first signal path as taught by Lin in the apparatus of Dow because Lin minimizes the propagation delay.

28. Claims 29-31 recite substantially the same limitations as claim 27 and therefore are similarly analyzed as claim 27 above.

29. As to claims 3-6 and 8-11, the steps claimed as method are nothing more than restating the function of the specific components of the apparatus as claimed above and therefore it would have been obvious, considering the aforementioned rejection for the apparatus claims 24-27 and 29-31.

30. As to claims 14-17 and 19-21, the device claimed is nothing more than restating the specific components of the apparatus as claimed above and therefore it would have been obvious, considering the aforementioned rejection for the apparatus claims 24-27 and 29-31.

31. Claims 7, 18, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dow in view of Easton and Lakkis and further in view of Lin.

32. Regarding claim 7, claim 7 is a method claim corresponding to apparatus claim 27, and recites substantially the same limitations, and therefore is similarly analyzed as claim 27 above.

33. Regarding claims 18 and 28, claim 18 and 28 recite substantially the same limitations as claim 27 and therefore are similarly analyzed as claim 27 above.

Other Prior Art Cited

34. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure.
35. Saeki et al. (US 4,404,663 discloses an integrated circuit that reduces capacitive interference.
36. Song (US 6,570,931 B1) discloses a transmitter with reduced coupling interference.
37. Ghoshal (US 6,008,705 A) discloses a method of suppressing crosstalk in a transmission system.
38. Zhang (US 5,994,946 A) discloses using staggered inverters to reduce interference from coupling capacitances.

Contact Information

39. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Caroline Angelo whose telephone number is 571-272-8730. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.
40. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on 571-272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2637

41. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CJA



MOHAMMED GHANOUR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER